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Statistical Commission
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Items 3–10 of the provisional agenda*
Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes**

Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its nineteenth session

Summary

At its nineteenth session, the Working Group considered statistical priorities and management in the face of diminishing resource levels (paras. 3 and 4); the implementation of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (para. 5); the work of the inter-agency task forces that had been established by the Commission in four subject matter areas (paras. 6–11); several critical problems in economic statistics (para. 13); the 2000 Population and Housing Census Programme (paras. 14–18); implementation of the Minimum National Social Data Set (para. 19); follow-up to the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council (paras. 20–26); international economic and social classifications (paras. 27–30); technical cooperation in statistics (para. 31); coordination of statistical data-collection activities (para. 32); integrated presentation of work plans of the international organizations in statistical methodology (paras. 33 and 34); and the role and functioning of the Statistical Commission (para. 35). The Working Group finalized the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission (paras. 36 and 37).

* E/CN.3/1999/1.

** This report is also relevant to discussion under items 3–9 of the provisional agenda.

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Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–2	3
II.	Statistical priorities and management in the face of diminishing resource levels	3–4	3
III.	Implementation of the system of national accounts, 1993	5	3
IV.	Work of the inter-agency task forces	6–12	3
	A. Task Force on Environment Statistics	6	3
	B. Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services	7–9	3
	C. Task Force on International Trade Statistics	10	4
	D. Task Force on Finance Statistics	11	4
	E. Industrial statistics	12	4
V.	Some critical problems in economic statistics	13	4
VI.	Demographic, social and migration statistics	14–18	5
VII.	Statistical implications of the follow-up to recent major United Nations conferences	19	5
VIII.	Follow-up to agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council	20–26	6
IX.	International economic and social classifications	27–30	7
X.	Technical cooperation in statistics	31	7
XI.	Coordination of statistical data-collection activities	32	8
XII.	Information on the statistical activities of international organizations	33–34	8
XIII.	Role and functioning of the Statistical Commission	35	8
XIV.	Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission	36–37	9
XV.	Dates, venue and draft provisional agenda of the twentieth session of the Working Group	38–39	9
Annexes			
I.	List of participants		10
II.	List of documents		12
III.	Agenda		15

I. Introduction

1. The nineteenth session of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination of the Statistical Commission was held in New York from 10 to 12 February 1998. The list of participants is contained in annex I, the list of documents in annex II (including the agenda item under which each document was considered) and the agenda in annex III.

2. Following previous practice and in accordance with the decision made by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-ninth session (11–14 February 1997), the officers elected at the twenty-ninth session of the Commission who attended the Working Group meeting served as its officers, as follows: Chairman – C. Jarque (Mexico); Vice-Chairman – E. Outrata (Czech Republic), T. Holt (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Rapporteur – G. Charumbira (Botswana).

II. Statistical priorities and management in the face of diminishing resource levels (agenda item 3)

3. The Working Group considered the item on the basis of an oral report made by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division. The Director briefed the meeting on the status of the Division as a result of the downsizing that the United Nations had been going through; the expert group meetings and workshops proposed by the Division for the 1998–1999 biennium; and the in-depth review of the statistics programme recently carried out by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the United Nations Secretariat (E/AC.51/1997/2).

4. The Working Group concurred with the proposed list of expert group meetings and workshops, and approved the implementation plan and timetable proposed by the Division for realizing the recommendations of the in-depth review of the statistics programme.

III. Implementation of the system of national accounts, 1993 (agenda item 4)

5. The Working Group:

(a) Took note of the announcement by the representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that a camera-ready copy of the Russian translation of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* (1993 SNA) would be available by mid-March 1998;

(b) Agreed with the proposed typology of possible amendments to the 1993 SNA;

(c) Agreed in principle with the proposal to handle effectively amendment of the 1993 SNA by delegating authority to the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) to make minor editorial amendments and uncontroversial clarificiations. With regard to "interpretations" of and "changes" to the 1993 SNA, the need for wider but still expeditious consultation was emphasized. In order to draw on the expertise of national statistical agencies and also for the Statistical Commission to be fully involved, it was suggested that for "interpretations" and "changes", a 30-day notification period be assigned during which all members of the Statistical Commission could review proposed changes. If during that period no objections were raised, the proposal would be considered as adopted;

(d) Accepted the proposed work programme of the ISWGNA member organizations in support of the implementation of the 1993 SNA;

(e) Took note of the proposals by the regional commissions for further close cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division in the milestone assessment exercise for implementation of the 1993 SNA.

IV. Work of the inter-agency task forces (agenda item 5)

A. Task Force on Environment Statistics

6. The Working Group endorsed the proposed first international compilation of environmental indicators, and encouraged national statistical services and international organizations to fully participate in that exercise.

B. Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services

7. The Working Group welcomed the proposed trade in services manual, and requested that it be reviewed in draft by the Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session. The Working Group concluded that:

(a) The proposed outline of the manual should emphasize that it would be an extension of the IMF *Balance of Payments Manual*, fifth edition (BPM5);

(b) It should be made clear that the Trade in Services Classification of the Statistical Office of the European Communities and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was an aggregation of the Central Product Classification (CPC);

(c) That the Task Force should carefully consider what Foreign Affiliates Trade Statistics (FATS) variables were required in the system. It was suggested that for negotiation purposes, the interesting variable was that of products from FATS, classified according to CPC.

8. A proposal was put forward that the Task Force on Services Statistics, the IMF Balance of Payments Committee and the United Nations Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications together discuss, review and resolve the matter of classifications that arose from the proposed manual.

9. The Working Group accepted the proposed change in the name of the Task Force to "Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services".

C. Task Force on International Trade Statistics

10. The Working Group:

(a) Noted the actions that the Task Force had taken and its plans for further action in relation to the requests made of it by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-ninth session;

(b) Endorsed the idea that the international trade statistics database maintained by the United Nations Statistics Division since 1962 according to five commodity classifications (Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, 1996 and 1988 versions; and Revisions 1, 2 and 3 of the Standard International Trade Classification) could be rationalized to a smaller number of classifications, and requested the Task Force to (i) study the burdens placed on international organizations by their having to maintain concordances and recompile international trade data according to those classifications; (ii) review the problem of maintaining comparable time series of trade; (iii) develop proposals on what to do in the medium-term and long-term future, including a consideration of the use of the Central Product Classification, as suggested by the Commission at its twenty-seventh session; and (iv) include the results in its report to the Commission at its thirtieth session.

D. Task Force on Finance Statistics

11. The Working Group took note of the following activities and issues:

(a) The IMF manual on monetary and financial statistics would be ready in 1998;

(b) Both ISWGNA and the IMF Balance of Payments Committee had reviewed, discussed and recommended necessary clarifications and updating of the 1993 SNA and BPM5 regarding the treatment of financial derivatives;

(c) The completion of the balance of payments book on compilation methodologies for the financial and capital accounts of the balance of payments of countries in the European region;

(d) There was a need for further conceptual work in financial statistics in order to produce new and analytically useful concepts in such areas as international reserves, short-term private non-banking external debt, and indicators of financial sector health. Special attention should be paid to the development of internationally comparable accounting standards and the links between microeconomic variables and macroeconomic accounts;

(e) There was a need to draw the attention of policy makers to the new call for financial statistics brought about by the recent financial crisis in Asia.

E. Industrial statistics

12. The Working Group considered the item on the basis of an oral report made by the representative of OECD on the small-scale survey carried out by OECD on statistical units underlying data in the Information System on Industrial Structures database of OECD. The Working Group took note of the report.

V. Some critical problems in economic statistics (agenda item 6)

13. The Working Group:

(a) Welcomed the progress made in disseminating information on the activities of the various groups working on the critical problems;

(b) Took note of the offer of the Czech Republic to host an expert group meeting on the topic "Some best practices for official statistics" at Prague on 23 and 24 March 1998;

(c) Endorsed the proposed activities of the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics, the Canberra Group on Household Income Statistics, the Expert Group on Capital Stock Statistics, the Sienna Group for Social Statistics, the Expert Group on Intangibles, the London Group on Environmental Accounting, the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics and the Round Table on Business Frames (see E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.3);

(d) Encouraged the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation to also include in the list of issues to be considered (i) discrepancies in the measurement of unemployment from various survey sources; (ii) a labour cost index; and (iii) labour quality;

(e) Encouraged the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes to work with the ILO on updating its manual on consumer price indices;

(f) Invited the Delhi Group for Informal Sector Statistics to narrow its broad terms of reference, focusing thereby on (i) survey techniques and (ii) links with national accounts as suggested priority areas;

(g) Re-emphasized that groups worked best when the problems to be solved had been clearly established, with suitable time-frames for their solution, and therefore encouraged the groups to report more substantively to the Statistical Commission;

(h) Also re-emphasized the importance of participation by a broad spectrum of countries in the work of the various groups;

(i) Endorsed the proposed course of action with regard to the evaluation of the International Comparison Programme, which would lead to a report to be presented to the Statistical Commission in 1999.

VI. Demographic, social and migration statistics (agenda item 7)

14. The Working Group:

(a) Noted the work undertaken on population and housing censuses by the Secretariat;

(b) Emphasized the importance of undertaking the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, and recognized the resource constraints that countries were facing in that regard. It endorsed the proposal made by the Director of the Population Division to bring those issues to the attention of the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-first session, which will take place from 23 to 27 February 1998.

15. The Working Group expressed its deep concern about the prospects for the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in many countries. While acknowledging the efforts already being made by Governments and international institutions, the Working Group concluded that the population and housing censuses were being accorded insufficient priority at that crucial stage in their preparation.

16. Many countries, including many newly independent ones, have experienced very large internal and external migration flows and very large changes in fertility and mortality. In most of those countries, because of economic and social conditions there is a critical risk that censuses will not be undertaken even though they are in the greatest need.

17. Up-to-date census information is necessary for decision-making over a wide range of important policy issues in government and elsewhere, but the population and housing census is the largest and most expensive single activity that national statistical offices ever undertake, and cannot be undertaken without the allocation of substantial extra resources over a number of years.

18. The Working Group therefore called on Governments and international institutions to give high priority to the next population and housing census, especially in countries that have experienced the greatest population changes, where the need for a census is therefore the most urgent.

VII. Statistical implications of the follow-up to recent major United Nations conferences (agenda item 8)

19. The Working Group:

(a) Endorsed the progress made by the Secretariat on the implementation of the Minimum National Social Data Set (MNSDS), and requested the Secretariat to continue that work;

(b) Recognized that the development of indicators was a dynamic process, and authorized the Secretariat, in

consultation with the Chairman of the Working Group, to adjust the definition of indicators, if required;

(c) Reiterated that such work was undertaken in the context of strengthening national statistical data-collection capabilities.

VIII. Follow-up to agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council (agenda item 9)

20. The Working Group adopted the statement set out in paragraphs 21–26 below.

A. Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

21. The Statistical Commission and its Working Group, as a basic working method, mainstream a gender perspective in their work. The Commission advises countries to collect, compile and analyse statistics related to individuals disaggregated by sex; ensure that gender stereotypes are not implicit in data-collection programmes and methods; and ensure that statistics reflect problems, issues and questions related to women and men in society. This applies in many areas, such as population statistics, including population and housing censuses and demographic statistics. The Statistical Commission and the United Nations Secretariat support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and intergovernmental bodies responsible for statistical development in specialized fields of statistics, such as health, education and employment, to ensure the inclusion of an unbiased gender perspective in those fields, as reflected in the various technical publications issued by the organizations of the international statistical system and in statistical databases and publications. That mainstreaming effort is also contributed to by the programme of the United Nations Statistics Division on gender statistics, which has produced two editions of the publication *The World's Women: Trends and Statistics*, a handbook on producing national statistical reports on women and men and the Women's Statistics and Indicators Database, and is developing a classification for time-use statistics that will be relevant to a range of socio-economic statistics, including gender statistics. Those work elements create a statistical information support system for mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.

B. Fostering an enabling environment for development: financial flows, including capital flows, investment and trade

22. The work of the Statistical Commission also supports the theme "Fostering an enabling environment for development: financial flows, including capital flows, investment and trade". The Commission has issued recommended concepts and definitions for countries to use when compiling their national accounts, as well as statistics for industry, international trade and other fields. Updated recommendations on national accounts and trade were adopted by the Commission in 1993 and 1997, respectively, and the Commission is supporting a major programme of assistance to countries to implement concepts and definitions. The availability of reliable data on national accounts, industry and trade, and other economic fields provides essential support for national development plans.

C. Coordination of United Nations system activities for poverty eradication

23. The Working Group notes that the Statistical Commission reported to the Economic and Social Council in 1997 on its work relevant to the eradication of poverty, in accordance with agreed conclusions 1996/1 of the Council. The Commission, through its Working Group, has monitored the implementation of MNSDS, which it endorsed for national and international use at its twenty-ninth session, in 1997, as a guide to national statistical services in considering data requirements for monitoring the implementation of the social programmes agreed to at recent United Nations conferences. The Commission has invited users to build on the 15 indicators of MNSDS to meet national needs and circumstances, as well as requirements in specific fields. MNSDS has received support from other international organizations in their work. The Working Group notes that the United Nations Statistics Division has written to all national statistical offices to bring MNSDS to their attention.

24. At its eighteenth session, in 1996, the Working Group considered the recommendations of an expert group created by the Statistical Commission to examine the statistical consequences of recent major United Nations conferences, and approved the holding of a seminar on poverty statistics,

to be organized by the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in collaboration with the other regional commissions. That seminar was held at Santiago in May 1997, and was attended by countries of all regions and international organizations involved in work on poverty statistics. Experience in measuring poverty incidence, poverty intensity and the use of a set of indicators in the design and monitoring of policies for poverty eradication was examined. A report on the current status of concepts and methods of poverty measurement was prepared; together with the documents prepared by countries and organizations, it is available on the Internet at:

http://www.ibge.org/poverty

25. To follow up the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, an expert group chaired by Brazil with ECLAC acting as secretariat was convened. That group has since become known as the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics. The Rio Group, scheduled to meet for the second time at Rio de Janeiro in May 1998, will consider in greater depth topics identified in the Santiago seminar of May 1997 on which important work is under way in different countries and organizations. A report on the state of the art in matters of poverty measurement, including suggestions and recommendations, will be before the Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session.

26. At recent sessions, both the Statistical Commission and its Working Group have included an agenda item on the statistical implications of the follow-up to recent major United Nations conferences. The Working Group, in response to the suggestion of the President of the Economic and Social Council, has agreed to include in the agenda of the Statistical Commission, a standing item entitled "Follow-up to the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council's high-level and coordination segments, and to its resolutions."

IX. International economic and social classifications (agenda item 10)

27. The Working Group welcomed the completion of CPC Version 1.0 and its submission for publication.

28. The Working Group also welcomed the close working relationship that had been established by the United Nations Statistics Division and the Voorburg Group with the World Trade Organization in the context of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). It took note of the problem of maintaining a major international statistical standard classification, such as CPC, through regular updating, revision and interpretation, while at the same time it was being used as a source for the preparation of international agreements, such as GATS.

29. The Working Group recognized that the two international initiatives (preparing and implementing CPC as an international statistical standard; and using CPC as a source in the context of GATS) were independent and mutually supportive activities. The Working Group agreed that when statistical classifications were utilized for purposes other than statistical uses, such as when they were utilized for legal agreements, cautionary notes were required. For example, if a legal text or a contract made reference to a statistical classification, those who prepared the text were fully responsible for the consequences. It would be viewed as their task, and not the responsibility of classification committees, to explain what had been done in the legal texts or contracts.

30. The Working Group also welcomed the opportunity to review the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) and its derived and related classifications, such as the General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities and the North American Industry Classification System, at the next meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications scheduled for November 1998. The review activity is part of the regular strategic overview of international standard classifications, conducted by the Expert Group, and will include discussion of the current status of ISIC implementation, its adequacy as an international standard, user perspectives, and updating and revision intentions.

X. Technical cooperation in statistics (agenda item 11)

31. The Working Group provided comments and endorsed the draft guiding principles contained in the note by the Secretary-General on technical cooperation in statistics (E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.7). It also agreed to the wide dissemination of the document to enable national statistical offices, regional and international organizations to provide feedback and comments. It called on the regional commissions and regional statistical committees to review and analyse the document, taking into account the relevant regional experiences in the field of technical cooperation. It agreed that the process would refine the report on technical cooperation to be presented to the Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session in 1999.

XI. Coordination of statistical data-collection activities (agenda item 12)

32. The Working Group considered the item on the basis of an oral report made by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division in which he (a) reported on instances of duplication that had been reported by countries in response to an inquiry from the Chairman of the Working Group in 1996; (b) indicated that the number of instances was small and that there was no current indication of a major problem in that area; and (c) reported that the Conference of European Statisticians had initiated a review of coordination of data collection in its region. The Working Group invited countries that observed instances of duplication to inform the international organizations involved for their review.

XII. Information on the statistical activities of international organizations (agenda item 13)

33. The Working Group considered the item on the basis of an oral report and an Internet demonstration made by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division. The Director indicated that the current effort was a pilot effort developed in response to a request by the Statistical Commission, that it was intended to cover methodological outputs only, and that a key feature was its search capability. The Director also indicated that the aim was to have a finished product ready for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission, including as many organizations as possible, and providing open access to countries and international organizations via the Internet.

34. The Working Group:

(a) Welcomed the pilot effort as a first step in the direction of an integrated presentation of work plans;

(b) Made suggestions and posed questions concerning (i) inclusion of previously produced methodological publications, (ii) the range of organizations to be included, (iii) possibilities of linkages to home pages of city groups, (iv) inclusion of actual texts of classifications, (v) specification of intended users and uses, (vi) relationship to similar or related sets of data available in some regions, (vii) arrangements for maintaining the database over time, and (viii) possible development of a catalogue of outputs with hyper links to the home pages of other organizations where the details would be available;

(c) Requested the Division to continue development of the system along the lines outlined by the Director, present a more elaborated product to the Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session and report to the Commission on the issues raised in subparagraph (b) above.

XIII. Role and functioning of the Statistical Commission (agenda item 14)

35. The Working Group:

(a) Took note of comments and suggestions relating to drafting, and to the substance of the report of the ad hoc group established by the Statistical Commission to explore new approaches to its structure and operation (E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.8) in the following areas: (i) regional commissions and conferences; (ii) frequency of meetings of the Statistical Commission and provision of continuity; (iii) role and authority of the Working Group and the Bureau; (iv) scope of the Statistical Commission's responsibilities, both in terms of fields of statistics and kinds of issues to be addressed; (v) city groups, task forces, integrated presentation of work programmes; (vi) relative effectiveness of the Commission in its various roles, such as setting standards compared to implementation; (vii) roles of the various actors in the system, including the "rapporteur" or "programme reviewer"; and (viii) "size of the task" in implementing the recommendations;

(b) Endorsed the report subject to revision in the light of comments made during the discussion and comments to be made later in writing for submission to the thirtieth session of the Commission, and requested Mr. de Vries of the Netherlands to prepare the revised report;

(c) As an immediate step to improve operations of the statistical system and support the Statistical Commission in carrying out its responsibilities, requested all city groups to supply the Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session with information on their activities and plans, using as a general guide the example of the proposed new style of integrated work programme module contained in the report of the ad hoc group (E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.8, annex, appendix I; reproduced in E/CN.3/1999/23, annex, appendix I);

(d) Expressed a very strong preference for the Statistical Commission to meet annually instead of the Commission and its Working Group meeting in alternate years, and requested the United Nations Statistics Division

to submit to the Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session a report on the feasibility of holding annual Commission sessions, covering the legal, financial and other aspects of such a change. In addition, in the event that holding annual Commission sessions might not be acceptable to the Economic and Social Council or that such a change could not be enacted immediately, the Working Group requested that the report discuss the extent to which the Commission could delegate authority to the Working Group, as well as any related issues stemming from the report of the ad hoc group.

XIV. Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission (agenda item 15)

36. The Working Group decided to add the following items, with the documentation indicated, to the agenda of the thirtieth session of the Commission:

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Information System (UNESIS).

   Documentation

   Report by the United Nations Statistics Division on the development of UNESIS standards for data structure and metadata in international data exchange and dissemination

2. Demographic, social and migration statistics.

   Documentation

   Progress report by the United Nations Statistics Division

   Draft revised principles and recommendations for vital statistics and civil registration statistics

3. Proposed international institute for statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

   Documentation

   Report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

37. The Working Group noted that it had approved, under other items of its agenda, outlines for documents for the thirtieth session of the Commission on the 1993 SNA; the work of the inter-agency task forces; some critical problems in economic statistics; demographic, social and migration statistics; statistical implications of the follow-up to recent major United Nations conferences; technical cooperation in statistics; statistical activities of international organizations; and the role and functioning of the Statistical Commission. The Working Group agreed to the document outlines proposed by the Secretariat for the remaining agenda items, namely coordination and integration of international statistical programmes, and programme questions and related matters.

XV. Dates, venue and draft provisional agenda of the twentieth session of the Working Group (agenda item 16)

38. The Working Group recommended that its twentieth session be held in New York from 29 February to 3 March 2000.

39. The Working Group approved the following provisional agenda for its twentieth session, subject to amendment by the Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session (1–5 March 1999):

(a) Work of the inter-agency task forces;

(b) Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-first session of the Statistical Commission.

Annex I

List of participants

Members

Botswana	G. M. Charumbira
Czech Republic	E. Outrata, O. Betíková
India	M. D. Asthana
Japan	T. Negi, H. Kitada, K. Toyoda, Y. Maruhashi
Mexico	C. M. Jarque, M. Cervera Flores, M. Palma Rojo, A. Puig Escudero, E. Ordaz Lopez
Netherlands	A. P. J. Abrahamse, W. F. M. de Vries, M. I. Cochius
Romania	V. Dinculescu, D. E. Stefanescu, S. Tanasescu
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	T. Holt, J. Church
United States of America	K. K. Wallman, S. Evinger

Member States of the United Nations represented by observers

Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kuwait, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey

Non-Member States represented by observers

Switzerland

Regional intergovernmental bodies

Conference of European Statisticians, Joint Organization of American States/ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Meeting of Directors of Statistics, Economic and Social Commission for Asia, Pacific Committee on Statistics

United Nations bodies

Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (Population Division, Statistics Division), Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Center for Human Settlements, Secretariat of the International Civil Service Commission

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health

Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Intergovernmental organizations

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Pan American Health Organization, Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Statistical Office of the European Communities, World Trade Organization

Other organizations represented by observers

Palestine

Non-governmental organizations

Special consultative status

International Statistical Institute

Annex II

List of documents

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.1	2	Provisional annotated agenda
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.2	5	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the inter-agency task forces
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.3	6	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on status/work of "city and other important groups"
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.4	7	Note by the Secretary-General on demographic, social and migration statistics
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.4/Add.1	7	Addendum to the note by the Secretary-General on demographic, social and migration statistics, entitled "Report on census costs"
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.5	8	Note by the Secretary-General on statistical implications of the follow-up to recent major United Nations conferences
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.6	10	Note by the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.7	11	Note by the Secretary-General on technical cooperation in statistics
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.8	14	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the ad hoc group established by the Statistical Commission to explore new approaches to its structure and operation
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.9	15	Note by the Secretariat containing proposals for the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.9/Add.1	15	Note by the Secretariat containing proposals for the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission: addendum
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.9/Add.2	15	Addendum to the note by the Secretariat containing proposals for the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission, entitled "Report on the planned future international institute for statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization"
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.10	4–8, 11–14	Report of the Secretary-General on actions and decisions taken by the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities at its thirty-first session
E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.11	4	Report by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts on implementation of the System of National Accounts, 1993

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/AC.51/1997/2	3	In-depth evaluation of the statistics programme by the Office of Internal Oversight Services
A/52/16	3	Extract from the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the in-depth evaluation of the statistics programme
UNSD/DIR/1998/1	3	List of expert groups and workshops scheduled to be conducted by the United Nations Statistics Division
Unnumbered	4	Milestone assessment of member States for the 1991/1996 period – United Nations Statistics Division in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions
Unnumbered	4	The Statistical Measurement of Financial Derivatives – International Monetary Fund, Statistics Department, November 1997
Unnumbered	5	Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting on Service Statistics: draft report on the sixth meeting (New York, 26 and 27 June 1997)
E/CN 3/1997/13	5	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Finance Statistics
UNSD/ITS/97/001	5	Report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics on its meeting held in Paris on 19 and 20 March 1997
Unnumbered	5	Industrial structure statistics: survey on statistical units, report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
Unnumbered	6	Some critical problems in economic statistics, progress report of the Expert Group on Intangibles
Unnumbered	6	Report of the first meeting of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation, Paris, 27 and 28 November 1997
Unnumbered	7	Statement by the Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat
Unnumbered	7	Estimating costs of population and housing censuses: report by the United Nations Statistics Division
Unnumbered	8	Minimum National Social Data Set: list of indicators included in the Data Set
Unnumbered	9	Follow-up to the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council: exchange of letters between the President and the Chairman of the Working Group; agreed conclusions 1997/1 of the Council; Council resolution 1997/60 on eradication of poverty
Unnumbered	10	Report of the Central Product Classification subgroup meeting of the Voorburg Group (New York, 4–6 December 1997)

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
ESA/STAT/AC.60/4	10	Report of the third meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications (New York, 1–3 December 1997)
Unnumbered	11	Workshop on improving technical cooperation in statistics (Voorburg, the Netherlands, 8–10 September 1997): summary, including a draft proposal for guiding principles for good practices in technical cooperation for statistics
Unnumbered	13	Pilot Internet Web site entitled "Methodological work in statistics", prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division

Annex III

Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Statistical priorities and management in the face of diminishing resource levels.
4. Implementation of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA).
5. Work of the inter-agency task forces.
6. Some critical problems in economic statistics.
7. Demographic, social and migration statistics.
8. Statistical implications of the follow-up to recent major United Nations conferences.
9. Follow-up to agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council.
10. International economic and social classifications.
11. Technical cooperation in statistics.
12. Coordination of statistical data-collection activities.
13. Information on the statistical activities of the international organizations.
14. Role and functioning of the Statistical Commission.
15. Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission.